

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 05109 150940Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /080 W  
-----107425 150951Z /14  
R 150933Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3128

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5109

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV PBOR MO SP  
SUBJECT: THE MOROCCAN OPTIC ON THE ENCLAVE/GIBRALTAR LINKAGE

REF: (A) MADRID 6766, (B) RABAT 3627

1. WE DO NOT ENTIRELY SHARE RUPEREZ' OBSERVATION THAT MOROCCO HAS RECENTLY BEGUN TO RESURRECT CEUTA AND MELILLA AS LIVE TOPICS. THERE HAS BEEN NO REALLY NOTEWORTHY VARIATION IN THE MOROCCAN LINE, OFFICIALLY OR SEMI-OFFICIALLY, SINCE KING HASSAN PUT THE ISSUE ON THE BACK BURNER IN 1975 AND 1976 PRESS CONFERENCES BY CALMLY LINKING THE RETURN OF THE ENCLAVES TO RESOLUTION OF THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT THE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS OCCASIONALLY SEIZED ON THE ISSUE -- USUALLY IN A MOMENT OF PIQUE OVER SAHARA-RELATED STATEMENTS IN THE SPANISH PRESS OR BY LEFTIST SPANISH POLITICIANS. THE ONE INCIDENT OF THE ISSUE ARISING IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS (REFTEL B) WAS OF MARGINAL SIGNIFICANCE, AS WE JUDGED AT THE TIME.

2. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THE TEMPTATION AMONG THE OPPOSITION TO RAISE THE ISSUE, AND ONE WOULD EXPECT THAT IT WILL REOCCUR IN COMING WEEKS AS THE SPANISH CORTES DEBATES THE SAHARA AND MOROCCO'S OWN NEW PARLIAMENT SITS NEXT MONTH. THE KEY, HOWEVER, IS WHAT THE GOM DOES. WHILE THE LEVER IS ALWAYS  
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PAGE 02 RABAT 05109 150940Z

AVAILABLE AND THREATS OF USING IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT IF IRRITANTS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE TO ACCRUE, WE QUESTION WHETHER THE KING WOULD GO TO THE MAT ON AN ISSUE WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY WEAKEN THE POSITION OF HIS ROYAL COUNTERPART TO THE NORTH. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE RULED OUT, BUT IN OUR VIEW IS UNLIKELY.

3. WE ARE THUS INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE THE MORE RECENT MILD  
RECRUDESCENCE OF ARTICLES ON CEUTA AND MELILLA TO THE  
BRITISH-SPANISH EXCHANGES ON GIBRALTAR, AND LITTLE ELSE.  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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